Title: Advancing the Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Curriculum

Keywords: Training, methods

Background: The Johns Hopkins EPHT Center is developing and advancing methods relating to environmental tracking through the following mechanisms: a methods training course, a school-wide journal club, and the funding of student fellowships.

Objectives: To describe each of these mechanisms which serve to develop and advance the EPHT curriculum.

Methods/Results:
A preliminary EPHT curriculum was developed by the Hopkins Center and a methodological training course was held to train state and local level individuals who are involved in EPHT. Participants were provided with a comprehensive volume of tracking-related literature. Lectures and interactive discussions covered general tracking topics including indicator use/development, data collection/evaluation and communication. Following this overview, more in depth sessions covered GIS and special analysis, time-series, and case-crossover analyses.

The Hopkins EPHT Center is promoting the advancement of EPHT professionals through the conduct of a bi-monthly school-wide journal club. This allows us to introduce tracking methods to current public health students and faculty using examples from the published literature. We have used this forum to invite EPHT practitioners to lead interactive discussions, bridging the gap between academic methods training and practical application.

The Hopkins EPHT Center has funded six doctoral students to advance the field of EPHT through research. These six students, representing three departments within the school of public health, are developing, applying, and evaluating EPHT methods through their doctoral research. This both enhances their training in tracking-related curriculum and allows for the development of new tracking methods through academic research.

Conclusions/Evaluation: The JHU EPHT Center is using various mechanisms and formats to reach a variety of individuals to advance the EPHT curriculum through the development and application of tracking-related methods.

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